

Animal Sciences and Forages

Animal Sciences and Forages

V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

1. Name of the Planned Program

Animal Sciences and Forages

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

KA Code	Knowledge Area	%1862 Extension	%1890 Extension	%1862 Research	%1890 Research
205	Plant Management Systems	15%	0%		
216	Integrated Pest Management Systems	10%	0%		
301	Reproductive Performance of Animals	10%	10%		
302	Nutrient Utilization in Animals	20%	20%		
303	Genetic Improvement of Animals	10%	20%		
307	Animal Management Systems	20%	20%		
311	Animal Diseases	10%	20%		
315	Animal Welfare/Well-Being and Protection	5%	10%		
Total		100%	100%		

V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

Year: 2008	Extension		Research	
	1862	1890	1862	1890
Plan	22.6	2.3	0.0	0.0
Actual	23.5	3.5	0.0	0.0

2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

Extension		Research	
Smith-Lever 3b & 3c 421997	1890 Extension 186047	Hatch 0	Evans-Allen 0
1862 Matching 514359	1890 Matching 207069	1862 Matching 0	1890 Matching 0
1862 All Other 3661912	1890 All Other 419380	1862 All Other 0	1890 All Other 0

V(D). Planned Program (Activity)**1. Brief description of the Activity**

Program area covers ruminant and non-ruminant (except poultry) livestock production and the associated forages needed to sustain these livestock species. There is both an urban and rural component to this program area. In 2008, 7 major projects were associated with this area.

ETP 11A – Dogs as Companion Animals. In 2008, two (2) county workshops, two (2) dog obedience training camps and one (1) regional dog expo were conducted in the State of Alabama. These outreach education activities focused on dog nutrition, health, behavior, safety, positive training methods to improve the human-dog relationship, responsible dog ownership, spay/neuter surgery, adoption, and the physical, physiological and psychological benefits of the human-dog interaction.

ETP 11B – Goat, Sheep and Rabbit Production Systems. In 2008, eighteen (18) multi-county workshops, three (3) county field days, one (1) statewide symposium and one (1) statewide conference were conducted in the State of Alabama. These outreach activities placed emphasis on meat and dairy goat production systems and focused on areas such as genetics, reproductive management, nutrition, pasture management and renovation, performance testing, FAMACHA, herd health management, meat quality assurance, body condition scoring, carcass merit and fabrication, milk production and quality, and manufacture of cheese, soap, lotion, and shampoo.

ETP 11C - Beef Cattle Performance Programs to Enhance Profitability. Through educational programs (2), marketing opportunities (8) and pre- and post-harvest performance data analysis, Alabama producers are given tools to make informed genetic selection/culling decisions and impact their operation as well as the US Beef Cattle Industry as a whole.

ETP 11D - Alabama Meat Quality Assurance Program. This program provides educational programming for beef, swine and goat producers on the proper pre-harvest management techniques affecting meat quality. Includes animal welfare/well-being. Combination of lecture and hands-on programming.

ETP 11E - Alabama REIN (Regional Equine Information Network). Series of programs teaching horse owners the basics of horse management. Participants completing REIN receives a certificate.

ETP 11G - Environmental Stewardship for Alabama Livestock Owners. Program emphasizes proper management strategies to become better environmental stewards.

ETP 11H - Livestock and Forages 101. A comprehensive interactive web site targeting new landowners moving from suburbia to a rural setting with basic animal husbandry and forage production information.

2. Brief description of the target audience

The primary target audience was livestock owners (cattle, goats, horses, sheep and swine) developing profitable, sustainable animal production systems in Alabama. Secondary target audience was consumers of the food products produced by these animals. An additional focus was placed on consumers eating lamb and goat meat products concerned with dietary cholesterol and other health issues. Tertiary target audience was dog fanciers and the general public interested in the adoption of companion dogs and learning the positive training methods to improve the human-dog relationship.

V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)**1. Standard output measures****Target for the number of persons (contacts) reached through direct and indirect contact methods**

	Direct Contacts Adults	Indirect Contacts Adults	Direct Contacts Youth	Indirect Contacts Youth
Year	Target	Target	Target	Target
Plan	92000	320000	12000	40000
2008	67511	1580017	11198	39340

2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)**Patent Applications Submitted**

Year **Target**

Plan: 0

2008: 0

Patents listed

3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)**Number of Peer Reviewed Publications**

	Extension	Research	Total
Plan	0	0	
2008	20	0	9

V(F). State Defined Outputs**Output Target****Output #1****Output Measure**

This program area will include numerous output activities and methods as part of the Extension Team Projects (ETPs) which are described/explained in the prior "outcome activities and methods sections." The success of many of these outcomes will be formally evaluated/measured by using individual activity evaluation forms designed specifically for each activity, the success of other activities and methods will be measured by the level of participation in the activity. In the target boxes below for each year, we are indicating the number of individual activities within the ETPs for this program area that will be formally evaluated using an evaluation instrument designed specifically for that activity.

Year	Target	Actual
2008	6	20

Output #2**Output Measure**

For ETP 11E, it will be the number of graduates

Year	Target	Actual
2008	{No Data Entered}	3

Output #3**Output Measure**

For ETP 11C, it will be the number of herds taking advantage of commercial record keeping analysis services

Year	Target	Actual
2008	{No Data Entered}	50

V(G). State Defined Outcomes

O No.	Outcome Name
1	For ETP11J the National Animal Identification Educational Program, the outcome measure will be The number of premises numbers registered for the State of Alabama due to our educational efforts.
2	For ETP11G the Alabama Master Cattle Producer Training Program, the outcome measure will be the number of graduates.
3	Each ACES employee is required to provide a success story on the program activity which they felt best demonstrates the impacts of their work. These success stories contain the following elements: Why: Explain the reason the program was done, or the situation or problem that the program addressed What: Specifically what was done and how it was done. When: If this was a one-time event, the date it occurred. If it is was a series of events, or an on-going program, when it began. Where: Specific location-- the county or counties involved. Who and how many: The "who" includes both who did the program and who were the clients of the program, as well as how many people were served. So what: This is the part that gives the real meaning to "success". The basic question to be answered in this part is "what difference did this program make". The difference may be measured in terms of dollars, or in changes in habits, lifestyles or attitudes. Whenever possible use numbers to show the effect of the program. If it is not possible to use numbers, provide a qualitative measurement like client comments or another type of testimonial about the program. Since this program area is very broad in scope and contains multiple Extension Team Projects which have different outcomes measures, the impacts for this program area are best measured in the number and quality of the success stories generated by the individuals who work on these projects. Therefore, one very significant outcome measure is the number of success stories generated.

Outcome #1

1. Outcome Measures

Not reporting on this Outcome for this Annual Report

2. Associated Institution Types

3a. Outcome Type:

3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year	Quantitative Target	Actual
------	---------------------	--------

3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

What has been done

Results

4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code	Knowledge Area
---------	----------------

V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

External factors which affected outcomes

Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)

Economy

Competing Programmatic Challenges

Brief Explanation

In general, many animal science and forages programs suffered attendance wise. This was in part due to the increased cost of inputs (fuel, feed and fertilizer). People restricted their activities to keep within their budgets. Grazing schools were fairly well attended. On the rural side, more time is being spent on forages to reduce dependence on stored feed needs. Travel dollars are also being limited because of the slow economy.

ETP 11A - Dogs as Companion Animals . Similar to commercial livestock producers, dog fanciers are also locally impacted by Extension via its' County and Regional Extension Agents, who handle questions, supply information, and conduct training in a wide variety of subject matter areas. To have a statewide comprehensive program, particularly a 4-H dog program, additional training activities focusing on dog science, obedience training, and responsible ownership must be made available to all interested persons across Alabama. Hence, future plans include promoting participation of other Extension professionals and increasing the number of outreach education activities throughout the State.

ETP 11B - Goat, Sheep and Rabbit Production Systems . Post surveys indicated that 5% of program participants reported that drought conditions played a major role in profit margin reduction. Furthermore, because goat producers constitute a minority group with few and less vocal supporters, they are critically under-represented at decision-making levels.

ETP 11E - Alabama REIN (Regional Equine Information Network). The economy and cost of inputs (primarily hay and fuel) really limited interest and enthusiasm for the program. Program was advertised heavily twice in 2008 with little success.

ETP 11H - Livestock and Forages 101. Project leader did not account for the amount of time it would take to develop website. Is still a work in progress.

V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)

1. Evaluation Studies Planned

After Only (post program)

During (during program)

Evaluation Results

ETP 11A - Dogs as Companion Animals

Increased knowledge of dog science, obedience training, and responsible ownership.

Increased sense of security among adults.

Increased recreational activities among adults.

Increased self-esteem among youth and adults.

Improved quality of life.

ETP 11B - Goat, Sheep and Rabbit Production Systems

Increased knowledge of key production management practices.

Improved forage management.

Improved efficiency of production.

Improved animal health and well-being.

Increased marketing and profitability.

ETP 11C - Beef Cattle Performance Programs to Enhance Profitability.

Increased working knowledge of information needed to properly evaluate production in herds

Improved production efficiency

Increased knowledge of retained ownership of cattle through harvest

Increased knowledge of marketing methods and outcomes

ETP 11D - Alabama Meat Quality Assurance Program.

Reinforced quality assurance principles and introduced how animal welfare will play a larger role in animal production agriculture

Increased marketing options with quality assurance certification

ETP 11G - Environmental Stewardship for Alabama Livestock Owners.

Increased knowledge of how to assess water quality in streams and ponds

Increased management practices to maintain or improve water quality on livestock operations

Key Items of Evaluation

ETP 11A - Dogs as Companion Animals

As a result of the activities, 119 program participants gained knowledge of dog science, obedience training, and responsible ownership.

As a result of the activities, 51 program participants observed increased sense of security.

As a result of the activities, 45 program participants observed increased recreational activities.

As a result of the activities, 39 program participants observed increased self-esteem.

As a result of the activities, 124 program participants observed improved quality of life.

ETP 11B - Goat, Sheep and Rabbit Production Systems

As a result of the activities, 672 program participants gained knowledge of key production management practices.

As a result of the activities, 441 program participants observed improved production efficiency.

As a result of the activities, 441 program participants observed improved animal health and well-being.

As a result of the activities, 269 program participants reported increased profitability rates ranging from 6 to 16 percent.

ETP 11C - Beef Cattle Performance Programs to Enhance Profitability.

549 bulls and heifers with performance information were marketed to 123 different buyers in 4 states.

Economic impact to bull buyers due to purchasing improved genetics is \$252,000 due to increased prices they will receive at market

Economic impact to sellers averaged an additional \$200/bull; \$73/open heifer and \$100/bred heifer over private treaty marketing

Results from retained ownership of steers indicate Alabama calves are on par with the US Beef Industry in terms of performance and carcass characteristics.